

and said photographing lens, said camera body having a first group of contacts, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected with said second group of contacts, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises:

a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens;

a rear converter memory in which rear converter data on said rear converter is stored, said rear converter memory including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels; and

a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels,

wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels,

wherein said camera body comprises a body controller that communicates with a lens

memory of said photographing lens to read photographing lens data from said lens memory, a portion of said photographing lens data serving as dummy data for said rear converter, said rear converter data being read out of said rear converter memory to be transmitted to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller receives said dummy data.

Please amend claim 6, as follows:

6 (Amended). The interchangeable lens camera system according to claim 1, wherein said body controller is set to recognize one of a last one byte and a last few types of said photographing lens data as said dummy data for said rear converter.

Please amend claim 7, as follows:

7 (Amended). A rear converter which can be mounted between a camera body and a photographing lens of an interchangeable lens camera system, said camera body having a first group of contacts, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected to said second group of contacts, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises:

a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens;

a rear converter memory in which rear converter data is stored, said rear converter memory including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels; and

a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels;

wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels,

wherein said camera body comprises a body controller that communicates with a lens memory of said photographing lens to read photographing lens data from said lens memory, a portion of said photographing lens data serving as dummy data for said rear converter, said rear converter data being read out of said rear converter memory to be transmitted to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller receives said dummy data.

Please add new claims 9 and 10, as follows:

---9 (Amended). An interchangeable lens camera system having a camera body, a photographing lens, and a rear converter which can be mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens, said camera body having a first group of contacts, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said

second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected with said second group of contacts, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises:

a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens;

a rear converter memory in which rear converter data on said rear converter is stored, said rear converter memory including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels; and

a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels, wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels, said lens controller sending out dummy data to enable said data I/O contact if inputting a command for said rear converter, which is issued by said body controller, via said data I/O contact, while said lens controller communicates with said body controller, said rear converter sending out said rear converter data to said data I/O contact in the case where said command is input via said data I/O contact.

10. The interchangeable lens camera system of claim 4, wherein said rear converter